[Mr. N. V. Chacko.]

(*d*) whether the petitions pray for remission of tax of the paddy lands in which salt water entered by the late construction of the bunds and destroyed the cultivation ; and

(*e*) who is responsible for the delay in constructing the bund at Koonan Anjily this year ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : (*a*) Yes. Two petitions, dated 18-1-1938 and 22-1 1938, were received.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The bund was erected in 1113 only in Dhanu. But no salt water entered the paddy lands.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No one can be held responsible as the monsoon rains extended up to the middle of Vrischikam this year and consequently the bund could be put up only early in Dhanu.

Mr. N. V. Chacko : May I know the extent of land benefited by that bund ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : 1860 acres of land on Travancore side and 741 acres on the Cochin side.

Maistries in the P. W. D.

99. ***Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :

(*a*) the total number of maistries who were serving in the P. W. D. in the year 1112, and the total of such maistries who have put in more than 15 years' service ;

(*b*) the total amount paid to them as salary or allowance in that year ;

(*c*) the average amount received by a maistry in the year 1112 ; and

(*d*) the source from which they are paid their pay or allowance ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : (*a*) The total number was 953. Those with more than 15 years' service were 312.

(*b*) Rs. 2,06,723.

(*c*) Rs. 18 per mensem.

(*d*) Item contingency and petty supervision in the estimates for works and repairs.

Mr. K. M. Korah (*Vaikom, Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*) : May I know whether those maistries are Government servants ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : They may be considered as Government servants in as much as they are allowed :

(1) 14 days casual leave.

(2) They are given gratuity allowance when they retire.

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(3) Compassionate gratuity is paid to the heirs in case death occurs during service.

(4) The privileges of the Provident Fund rules are also extended to them.

Mr. K. M. Korah : May I know whether they are entitled to pension ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : No, Sir.

Mr. K. M. Korah : May I know whether the Government will be pleased to consider the granting of pension to those people also ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : The suggestion may be considered by Government.

Income from P. W. D. and market tolls in 1111 and 1112.

100. ***Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair :** Will the Government be pleased to give a statement showing the total amount realised by them by auction under tolls for roads and contracts for markets for 1111 and 1112 ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : A *statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether the amounts realised under tolls for roads and contracts for markets are not steadily on the increase ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : I have got the figures only for 1111 and 1112. The members can see from it that so far as the amount realised under tolls are concerned, it is on the decline while the amount realised from markets has gone up.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether the Government are in receipt of successive complaints that market contractors are extracting higher rates than those prescribed from the people ?

Mr C. O. Madhavan : I am not aware of any such complaint having been received by Government

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether the Government have considered the impossibility of the market contractors collecting fabulous amounts bidden by them if they levy only the prescribed fees from the people ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : The markets are disposed of in auction and the bidders are expected to know what they can realise and then offer their bids accordingly.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether the Government have considered, before they auction a market to a contractor, the probable amount that he may be able to realise from the people if he levies only the prescribed dues from the people ?

**Vide* Appendix 1 page. 576.

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